

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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FCC Mailroom

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FCC Mail Room

December 15, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: PS Docket No. 07-114, 9-1-1 Location Accuracy

Dear Commissioners:

On the matter of Proceeding Number 07-114, I write today to respectfully urge you to give serious consideration to a proposal jointly agreed upon by the nation's largest wireless service providers and public safety partners at the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). We believe their plan is the right step forward toward our shared goal of improving the accuracy of locating 9-1-1 callers who use wireless devices.

Undoubtedly, wireless devices are becoming the preferred method of communication for most Americans. Statistics released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) just this summer showed that two-in-five households in the U.S. had only wireless phones in the second half of 2013. That number has probably risen over the year. When citizens call our emergency centers, we have learned that pinpointing the precise location of a 9-1-1 caller using a wireless device can be difficult. This is especially true in indoor environments where current technologies cannot assess an exact physical address like an apartment or suite number. In an emergency situation, the lack of that kind of information could seriously undermine the efforts of first responders, slow response times, and ultimately endanger lives.

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While the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) proposed standards to improve the location accuracy of wireless 9-1-1 calls was a needed first step, it does not go far enough. We believe the aforementioned proposal agreed to by the wireless service providers, NENA, and APCO – experts at the nexus of wireless and public safety issues – is the best policy to ensure our citizens will get the help they need as quickly as possible when they call our emergency line.

The solution outlined in their proposal could finally address the vexing problem of location accuracy and help us better respond to the needs of our communities. For those reasons, we hope the FCC will give thoughtful consideration to it. It is safe to say that we have already moved into an era in which wireless phones are an indispensable part of everyone's lives. Now, we need to make sure we're equipped to respond accordingly.

We are heartened to see that the FCC has devoted considerable time and attention to this issue. Moreover, we are grateful for the opportunity to offer our thoughts on this important proceeding.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Harris", written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Roger L. Harris